

BETWEEN THE PAGES

JUNE—JULY 2015

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer reading programs are a staple of most libraries and have been around for decades. Over the years, the benefits of summer reading programs have been promoted and their contribution to preventing “summer slide” is significant. Now, however computers, television, and electronic devices are so popular, we are challenged to keep kids’ minds and imaginations engaged during the summer months.

Is it enough to just give a child a book and expect that he or she will read it? Reading, just like any other acquired skill, must be maintained. Comprehension and vocabulary can be lost quickly. Reading is a skill that requires more than just simply providing access to books.

To benefit from a book you have to be able to decode the words—or have fluency. The text a child is reading must be at an appropriate age level. I fully believe in the 5-finger rule. For every 100 words a child reads, they hold up a finger for each word that is too difficult to pronounce or figure out. When they reach five fingers, it means the book is probably too difficult for them. The trick is to find the “sweet spot” where the reader is challenged but not overwhelmed.

Involvement in a summer reading program allows readers, especially reluctant readers, to read from alternate formats such as magazines, graphic novels, and eBooks. The program is not located in a school

building, which helps to reduce any negative perceptions about reading. Additionally, libraries offer enrichment activities and programs related to literature that are not usually found in other locations.

So, come sign up for summer reading this year! Come spend an hour and play and build Legos with your child at Lego Club. Come watch a special entertainer.

Encourage your child to join book club. Help us achieve our goal of introducing children to dinosaurs and dragons and fairy tales that are in a book and not on a TV or video game screen and to avoid that “summer slide”.

*Anne-Frances Sparks,
Assistant City Librarian*

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH :

Carol Stone

Carol Stone has been volunteering at the Huntsville Public Library for several months.

Stone was originally born in Crockett but currently lives in Huntsville.

She is a retired Huntsville Public Library board retiree, and loves to shelve books so others can enjoy the books.



"My grandmother loved to read to me and my other siblings," Stone said.

"So every summer going to grandmas house was a treat because we got to visit the library and read books."

Stone said she volunteers at the library because the library assists kids with reading, instills a

good foundation in children's lives for reading and builds character. Stone feels like kids can learn more from reading than from electronics nowadays.

If you are interested in volunteering, Stone says to try to come at least a couple of times a week. Stick with it and keep trying, it takes hard work to be a volunteer.

"We all have a plan from above and I receive joy from helping others," Stone said.

HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5472

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Telling the Family's Story:

Writer's Cramp and Other Maladies

By Richard Lane, Public Services

Few of us possess the gift of storytelling. As we prepare to write or develop a storyline we often hit a wall. Writers refer to this as writers' cramp. We search for words and try to find novelty in our thoughts. We may become frustrated and fret away the night trying to find the right introduction to our stories. We ask ourselves, "How do I draw my audience into the story I want to tell?"

Remember this, family stories often revolve around a single person. Family stories are biographical by nature. Biography as a genre has factual elements which need to be met. Various sources provide a list of these elements. The lists generally include: 1) Dates and places of birth; 2) family members, childhood and education; 3) hobbies and interests; 4) anecdotes; 5) reason for fame, remembrance or notoriety; 6) later life and old age; and 7) death. We gather these elements together as we do our family research. The question however remains, "How do I draw my audience into the story I want to tell?"

An essential step will be to develop an inner image of the person about whom we are writing. We need to answer, "What is it about this person that is compelling?" "Why do I want to tell the story?" Once the image is clear, we still need to find the right time and place in that person's life to begin. Here's a wonderful example I recently discovered.

"At three minutes past five o'clock on the afternoon of August 14, 1975, the London rush hour traffic had begun to clog the wide lanes of Brompton Road, and a chilly rain was falling. In the crowds of pedestrians, umbrellas began to sprout like so many mushrooms. The two women who had just finished shopping at Harrods had no umbrellas, and they waved in vain at several taxis before one with its "For Hire" flag pulled over to the curb. As the women hurried to get inside, the vehicle suddenly rolled forward, and the unexpected movement threw one of them off balance. A young and nimbler person might have avoided injury, but the one climbing to the cab that rainy afternoon was Miss Ima Hogg, age ninety-three."

Ima Hogg. What a name. Texans frequently poke fun at Miss Ima. Closer examination, as found in the artful biography by Virginia



Bernhard, reveals a woman of great character, dignity and generosity. One has the sense that Virginia Bernhard captured the essence and image of her subject and presented it to her reader with clarity and perception.

Ima Hogg: The Governor's Daughter by Virginia Bernhard (Brandywine Press, St. James, NY, 1984)

Summer Teen Programs

By Ashley Newsome

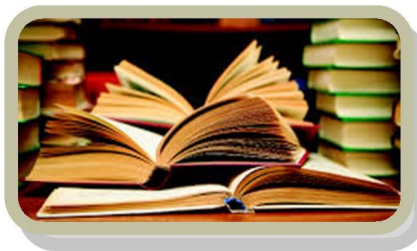
This summer teen programming events are the Teen Summer Computer Classes and Anime Day. The *Teen Summer Computer Classes* consist of the Go Animate Software where teens will be learning how to make superhero movies. This event will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting on June 9th through July 16th. Anime Day is another program for our anime and manga reading teens. During this program teens will watch some anime cartoons and read manga. Teens will show off their manga or anime style artwork by drawing their favorite characters and learn how to create new ones. Come and enjoy a sweet treat and a nice refreshing drink at

the library. This event will be held on June 27, 2015 at 4:30 pm. For the month of July, we have *Origami Crafts*. This is a fun way to learn more about the Japanese culture by using arts and crafts. It is widely believed that origami originated in Japan, even though there was also paper folding tradition hundreds of years ago in China. However, it was the Japanese form of origami that evolved into the incredibly popular craft it is today, and it is the Japanese words ori (folding), and kami (paper) that are the origin of the word origami. This event will be on July 25, 2015 at 1 pm. If you have any questions or would like more information about these programs, please contact the Teen Coordinator, Ashley Newsome at 291-5912. All teen programs are for ages 13-17.

FROM BETWEEN THE PAGES TO YOUR HANDS

Finding the book you have been wanting to read on the shelves of the library is not only a joy for you—the reader—but for the staff of the Huntsville Public Library too. The collection of the Huntsville Public Library began in 1967. History says that the library was two years in the making by a group of citizens united as Friends of the Huntsville Public Library. The Friends are still a vital support group for the library.

Over the years, the library has worked tirelessly to keep our collection fresh, but classic at the same time. In today's society, our books, audiobooks, music, movies and so much more come from shipping houses. But not all come from those shipping houses! We have a large number of items donated



throughout the year by patrons who pass on their love of books and movies.

Donating items to the Library is very easy. Simply pack them into a box, deliver them to the library, sign a donation form and feel the gratification of sharing an adventure stuffed between the covers or on a DVD. Items donated are reviewed by our staff for their relevance to our collection. Books are often worn

over time and replacing them with donated material is ideal for keeping the book "alive" on our shelves. Books sometimes end up on the sales shelf—the sales benefit the library!

So, the next time you are in the library, searching for your next adventure, keep in mind that our collection is here to provide you with information, reference and literary endeavors. We make every effort to stay current and relevant for the public.

As stated in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves."

Brenda Poe, Cataloger



LITERACY

ESL tutor Claudia Schwinkendorf (center) is proud of her class of 30 students who are graduating **Thursday, June 18th** after working the last 5 months on improving their English skills. Claudia volunteers with the Adult Literacy Program at the Huntsville Public Library.



The Trendy New Teen Programs

Saturday, July 25, Teen Origami Crafts, 4:30, Community Room

Saturday, August 15, Teen Wii Tournament, 4:30, Community Room

Friday, August 28, Teen Duct Tape Crafts, 4:30, Community Room



Raspberry Pi

By Drew Nevlund,
Public Services

What is Raspberry Pi? It is not your grandma's recipe, that is for sure. Raspberry Pi is a small computer that is a little bigger than your average credit card. The Raspberry Pi was created by The Raspberry Pi Foundation charity. Just connect the Raspberry Pi to a TV via HDMI and a keyboard via USB, and you have a functioning computer for as little as \$25.

There are several operating systems you can run on Raspberry Pi including Linux and Raspbian which is specifically made for Raspberry Pi. The operating systems will let you launch applications like word processing, games, and HD video on your TV. The operating systems, which can be found on the Downloads page of the Raspberry Pi website, are stored on an SD Card. The Raspberry Pi is powered by 5v micro USB which is a common cable found with smartphone chargers. The compact nature of the device combined with the power it has provides a cheap barrier of entry for someone who is willing to explore computing beyond the comfort of their desktop computer. I will cover the new Raspberry Pi 2 at a later time.



Noah Scheel is our Children's Patron of the Month.

Noah is 5 years old. His favorite color is blue and his favorite book is *The Little Engine That Could*. Noah loves all the fun activities at the library but his favorite is Story Time on Wednesday mornings.



How Can I Encourage My Child To Read

1. Begin reading to your child at an early age
2. Fill your child's room with books
3. Let them see you read
4. As they learn to read make time for them to read to you
5. Introduce them to books that interest them
6. Praise your child for meeting a reading goal
7. Visit the library

*"To Learn to Read
Is to light a fire."
- Victor Hugo*



Delightful Doodlers

Every Monday at 11:00

Story Time

Every Wednesday at 10:45

Krafty Kids

Every Friday at 4:00

Superhero Craft Activity Tuesday, June 23rd

3:30

Superhero Craft Activity Tuesday, June 7th,

3:30

Old Timer Raccoon Special Story Presentation,
Tuesday, July 14, 2:00

Texas A&M Chemistry Roadshow, Tuesday,
July 21, 2:30

Dr. Frasier's Special Tooth Fairy Story Time,
Thursday, July 23, 10:45

Superhero Craft Activity, Friday, July 24, 3:30

Reading Logs Due, Friday, July 31

*dates
to
Remember*

Book Review

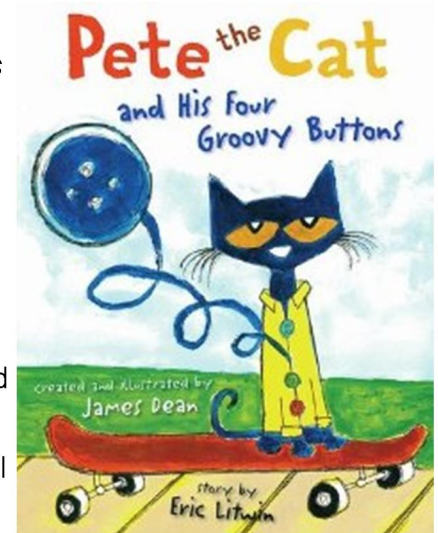
*Pete the
Cat and His
Four
Groovy*

Buttons by
Eric Litwin
is a fantas-
tic book for
children and
adults.

Children will
adore Pete
the Cat and

his four colorful groovy buttons. Parents will fall in love with the positive attitude that Pete demonstrates as each of his four groovy buttons pop. Pete does not distress when the buttons fall off. Pete's mantra will have children shouting 'Goodness no' and "Buttons come and buttons go". Pick up a Pete the Cat book soon and enjoy this new series of books that is sure to become a classic.

Review by: Kristi Glasgow



Employee Spotlight:

Cassandra Thompson

Evening Circulation Clerk

Thompson began working at the Huntsville Public Library just over a month ago.

"I am originally from Brookwood, Alabama," Thompson said. "I met the love of my life, my person, in high school and found myself in Huntsville.



This is his hometown."

Thompson said applying for a job at the library just made sense to her because she has a deep love of reading.

"I am learning a lot and having fun interacting with the public," Thompson said. "I have especially liked the kids that have been coming to the library for Summer Reading."

Thompson said she has enjoyed her new position at the library and hasn't met anyone she didn't like.

Thompson said the best aspect of her job is the "awesome coworkers."

"I think the average Huntsville citizen doesn't know that a library card is free and relatively easy to apply for," Thompson said.

Thompson's favorite past times are reading, listening to music and gardening.

Stop by the library anytime from 2-6 p.m. and introduce yourself to Cassandra and you will see why she is a great fit here at the Huntsville Public Library.